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OCT 12 1999

(34)

DOCKETED  
USPS

October 5, 1999

DOCKET NUMBER  
PROPOSED RULE **PR 20**  
(64FR35090)

'99 NOV -9 P4:12

Honorable Rep. Rush Holt  
1630 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515-1901

OFFICE  
FOR  
ADJUTANT

OCT 12 1999

Dear Rep. Holt,

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The *San Francisco Chronicle* reported on September 19, 1999 that "tons of slightly radioactive scrap metal is piling up for disposal at nuclear reactors and laboratories across California and around the nation."

What is troubling about this problem is what the federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission is proposing as a solution. The agency is considering allowing these scrap metals to be recycled into common household items, for example, baby carriages, frying pans, spoons and zippers.

Recycling metals is an admirable goal, however, it is not a safe solution to this problem. Exposing humans to low levels of radiation through the cooking utensils their food is prepared in, clothes they wear and baby carriages their children ride in is not sound public policy.

The US public has been down this road before. In the 1960s, the Honorable Senator Kerr from Oklahoma pushed for the passage of legislation to exempt highly toxic and radioactive sands from federal and state regulation. The legislation passed, and industry began selling radioactive sand. The material was used for sand in childrens' sandboxes, and made into concrete and plaster. Meanwhile, thousands of homes, schools and public buildings constructed with those sands were subsequently torn down or abandoned. They were condemned because the levels of radon gas inside was higher than that found in uranium mines which killed 70% of the miners.

Thus, I urge you to promote legislation that prohibits the recycling of scrap metals emanating from the nuclear industry. ↙

Yours truly,

*Joyce Goletz Heckman*

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